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☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: (Optional)				[REDACTED]	
FROM:		EXTENSION		NO.	
Inspector General				[REDACTED]	
				DATE	
				26 March 1975	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)		DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	
		RECEIVED FORWARDED			
1. DCI					
2.					
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4.					
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14. Declassified and Approved for Release July 2000					
15.					

The attached paper on the Schneider question is the result of a thorough DDO review, including additional detail on CIA relations with the groups in Chile which serves to clarify what did happen. CIA's non-involvement seems pretty clear. In the light of this it probably is unnecessary to provide the details to any of the investigative bodies, unless some detail is asked.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C-7

[REDACTED]

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1 March 1975

The Assassination of General Rene Schneider

General Rene Schneider, Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Army, was killed in late October 1970 as the result of a kidnap attempt carried out by a band of anti-Marxists under the direction of retired General Roberto Viaux. General Viaux was in contact with a larger military-civilian group that was trying to prevent the accession to power of Marxist Salvador Allende. General Schneider was a major obstacle to their plans since he firmly opposed any effort to interfere with the constitutional process. The conspirators hoped to kidnap and detain Schneider long enough to permit anti-Marxist forces to take over power in Chile. The 22 October kidnap attempt which resulted in Schneider's death was badly executed; General Schneider drew his pistol and in turn was shot and fatally wounded by the kidnapers.

Following the 4 September 1970 presidential election, in which none of the three candidates received a majority of the popular vote, the Agency was instructed to try to determine whether sufficient organized strength could be mobilized in Chile to prevent Allende from assuming office as President on 4 November 1970. In carrying out this mandate, the Agency did make contact with the military-civilian group which was actively plotting a coup d'etat. As the first step in their coup attempt, this group had planned to abduct Schneider on the evening of 19 October. This plan aborted. The Agency was also in contact with representatives of General Viaux (the latter subsequently admitted "intellectual authorship" of the 22 October kidnap effort), but had withdrawn from contact after determining that the Viaux

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group lacked the organization necessary for any effective course of action. It is not known whether any leaders of the military-civilian group authorized the 22 October attempt, although available evidence makes it appear likely that Viaux acted on his own initiative in a last-ditch effort to provoke military intervention. The Agency provided the military-civilian group with three weapons and six gas masks and cannisters which were never used; the weapons were subsequently returned. No military hardware was provided to Viaux. The death of Schneider, which was totally unplanned and unforeseen, resulted in the collapse of all efforts to prevent Allende from assuming the Presidency.

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